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ABSTRACT

Poland's Center for Civic and Economic Education was established to improve teachers' ability to instruct students in civic education in the newly democratized Poland. The Center seeks to improve teacher skills, to gather information on effective teaching methods and curricula, and to pursue other activities to heighten civic education in Polish schools. During 1993 the Center held workshops and seminars to promote these goals. At the same time, other Polish and international institutions held conferences that helped promote the Center's activities, while the Center worked to foster the educational aims of other groups. The Center has been conducting youth forums on various subjects, aiding in the publication of books and other materials that encourage teaching about democracy, and gathering library and database materials for use by educators. In 1994 the Center plans to hold more teacher workshops, one-day "current issues" meetings for teachers, youth forums, and more programs in cooperation with other institutions. (SG)

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Center for Civic and Economic Education

Warsaw

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Creating a Center For Civic And Economic Education In Warsaw

The *"Civic Education in a Democratic Society"* project was implemented in 1991 by the Ministry of National Education (Teacher Training Department) in cooperation with the Mershon Center, The Ohio State University. The objective of the project is to nurture democratic values in Polish youth, and to develop the practical skills required for an active and responsible life in a democratic society and in a free market system. The project included a plan for five centers for civic and economice education in Warsaw, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Lublin and Krakow. The Warsaw center was established on March 1, 1993 as part of the National Teacher Training Center. Its staff comprises Jacek Kowalaski, M.A. (head), Jacek Krolikowski, M.A., and Maria Ostrowdka, M.A. who is responsible primarily for economic education. The center serves the Bialystok, Ciechanow, Lomza, Ostroleka, Plock, Siedlce, Skierniewice, Suwalki, Warsaw and Wloclawek provinces. Cooperation with other regions is maintained through the other centers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTER FOR CIVIC AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION IN WARSAW

The principal purpose of the Center's activities are:

* *to improve the professional skills of teachers interested in civic education in schools, including teachers of knowledge of society, history, and also for class masters and wardens of school self-government bodies;*

* *to gather information on active teaching methods and new curriculum proposals concerning civic education and their promotion;*

* *drawing up and distributing supplementary materials for teachers;*

* *managing national and international projects related to the Center's functions ;*

* *to disseminate among Polish teachers the models and experience of European and world institutions dealing with civic education;*

* *to inspire teachers to implement innovative strategies for teaching issues related to democracy and the market economy;*

* *to interest various institutions in civic education and improve the status of civic education within schools;*

* *to maintain contact with active groups of young people and to initiate and promote their activities.*

The Center's Activity in 1993

Workshops for teachers

A major emphasis of the Center is workshops for teachers. these include short lectures by specialists, mainly researchers linking lesson presentation and independent work by the workshop participants. For example, participants prepare their own draft lesson plans based on the presented teaching techniques and methods. The teachers are also given a series of teaching materials that provide practical assistance in teaching.

The Center held the following workshops in 1993:

* ACTIVE TEACHING METHODS, Warsaw August 4-5, 1993, Sulejowek October 14-16, 1993, and November 19-20, 1993. This series of workshops, led by Malgorzata Rutkowska-Paszta, involved 26 participants.

* HUMAN RIGHTS, Brwinow October 8-10, 1993, led by Elzbieta Suska, M.A., and Jaromir Czerkawski, M.A.. The lecture was given by Marek Nowicki, Ph.D. (Helsinki Foundation in Poland). Twenty eight people participated.

* TEACHING ABOUT LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, October 8-10, 1993, led by Jacek Krolikowski, M.A.. The lecture was given by Prof. Zygmunt Niewiadomski, Ph.D. (Institute of Communal and Spacial Ecomomy) and Marta Zahorska-Bugaj (Warsaw University). Twenty eight persons participated.

* HOW TO TEACH THE FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMICS , Warsaw, October 14-16, 1993, led by Maria Ostrowska,M.A.. Lecture given by Ewalina Nojszewdka,Ph.D. (SGH). Twenty four people participated.

* THE ENTERPRISE, Sulejowek, November 12-14, 1993, led by Maria Ostrowdka,M.A.. The lecture was given by Irena Lichniak, Ph.D. (SGH). Twenty four people participated.

* THE ROLE OF MONEY, Leszno near Blonie, December 3-5, 1993, led by Maria Ostrowska,M.A.. The lectures were biven by Jerzy Busz, Ph.D. (Food Economy Bank) and Andrzej Wojcik, M.A. (PKO BP). Twenty five people participated.

Following each workshop, the participants completed a questionnaire in which they evaluated the course of the activities. The overwhelming majority highlighted the excellent preparations and the need for additional workshops. A total of 158 persons participated in the workshops.

Conferences organized by the Center

1. A seminar *"The future of civic education"* was held on Septermber 29-30, 1993, during a meeting of the Center's staff with invited representatives of Provice Methodological Centers. Province Centers in Bialystok, Lomza, Lodz, Ostroleka, Plock, Diedlce, Skierniewice, Wloclawek and Warsaw were represented. The Center's staff demonstrated simulations and other active teaching methods . During the meeting decisions were made in regard to the cooperation principles between the Center for Civic and Economic Education and the Provincial Methodological Centers. This included an introduction of the Center's "standing collaborators" to the various Provincial Methodological Centers (PMC). Seventeen persons participated in the meeting.

2. A meeting of the heads of all Centers for Civic and Economic Education was heol in Warsaw on Octover 10, 1993, with the participation of Jacek Strzemieczny, Ph.D., Director of the Department

of Teacher Training , Ministry of National Education, during which the Center's current and planned activities were reviewed. Decisions were made regarding the forms of cooperation among the Centers.

3. The Center is the joint organizer of an international conference, *"Civic Education"* to be held in Jachranka December 10-12, 1993.

Promotion of the Center's activities at conferences organized by other institutions

In 1993 the Center's workers took part in the following meetings and conferences, during which they spoke about the forms of assistance offered to teachers and presented simulations and lessons promoted by the Center:

1. A meeting in Garwolin on October 10, 1993, with school headmasters of Siedlce Province, organized by the PMC in Siedlce. Sixty five persons participated in the meeting.

2. A meeting in Huta Gruszczyno on October 11, 1993, with school headmasters of Siedlce Province, organized by the PMC in Siedlce. Fifty persons participated.

3. A meeting with Bialystok civic education and history teachers , organized on October27, 1993 by the local PMC. Thirty people participated.

4. A meeting with Skierniewice Province civic education and history teachers , jointly organized by the PMC in Sochaczew on November 23, 1993. Twenty people participated.

5. A meeting with General Secondary School teachers in Minsk Mazowiecki on November 25, 1993. Thirty people parricipated.

6. On a request from the Latvian Ministry of National Education, the Center's staff prepared a seminar on "Civic Education in Poland," held on October 19-20, 1993 in Riga. Twenty five Latvian teachers participated in the seminar, which also offered the opportunity to open contacts with teachers of the Polish school in Riga who were interested in the Center's activities. Latvian representatives expressed a desire to continue cooperation with the Center in Warsaw.

7. A conference on human rights, organized in September, 1993, in Warsaw by the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation.

8. A conference, "Education for All," organized by the Polish UNESCO Committee on November, 9, 1993, in Warsaw.

9. The Warsaw Education Forum, which took place in Warsaw on October 30, 1993.

10. "Applied Economics " workshop organized by the Stefan Batory Foundation and Junior Achievement and held October 4,7,and 8, 1993, in Madralin near Otwock, with some 30 persons in attendance.

11. On an invitation by the Center for Civic and Economic Education in Lublin, Maria Ostrwska,M.A., held a teachers workshop "How to teach the foundations of economics" on November 27-28, 1993, in Pulawy. Twenty people participated.

* A total of more than 350 persons participated in the Center's educational activities.

The Centers cooperation with other institutions

The Center cooperated with the following institutions in 1993:
1. The Helsinki Human Rights Foundation. The Center was grateful to receive cost-free material from the Foundation for a "Human Rights" workshop and to host Marek Nowicki as lecturer; a joint program is planned for workshop on human rights issues wich would increase the number of teachers competent to teach these matters in schools.

2. The Stefan Batory Foundation. The Center supports the Foundation in recruiting schools to its "Enterprise" program and promotes other Foundation activities. A Foundation representative participated in the Center's workshop to present the guidelines of the "Enterprise" program and demonstrate lessons.

3. The Local Democracy Development Foundation. The Center drew attantion to the Foundation's publications at its workshops. Work is currently under way to draft a program with working title of *"Scool - Local Govenment"*, the purpose of which would be the expansion of cooperation between these institutions.

4. Foundation for Teaching Economics. Center representatives and Janina Zawadowska, Ph.D. the Director Of the National In-Service Teacher Training Center (CODN) met in October with Gary M.Walton of the Foundation to review cooperation between the CCEE and the Foundation in drafting a program to prepere a group of Polish teachers to teach the basics of economics in schools.

5. Demokratijas Attistibas Centrs. An institution in Latvia with objectives similar to those of CCEE. Following the initiative of its representative Rusins Albertins, Ph.D., cooperation was begun in preparation for the seminar *"Civic Education in Poland"*, organized by the Center for Latvian teachers. The DAC would like to continue to take advantage of experience gained in introducing civic education to Polish schools through the mediation of the CCEE.

6. State Scientific Publishing House (PWN). the Center initiated the singing of an agreement between the PWN and the National In-Service Teacher Training Center, resulting in the Center's receipt of cost - free copies of PWN publications in exchange for promoting them at various book sales organized during CCEE workshops.

7. "Education for Democracy" Foundation. The Center has promoted the Foundation's publications. A joint workshop is planned by this Foundation and the CCEE on the issues of school self-governing bodies.

Youth Forum

The Center places great emphasis on its contacts with young people and creates openings for youyh initiatives. In 1993, this goal was primarily implemented by the "Youth Forum" managed by CCEE standing collaborators Cezary Trutkowski and Tomasz Masny. As a result of their cooperation with a group of youth leaders, the following steps were taken:

* Youth Forum I ***"Warsaw's ecological problems"*** held on August 07, 1993 with some 40 people participating

* an integration session of a group of Youth Forum leaders led by Pawel Walewski and Aleksandra Szkurlat of the Youth Psychological Center on October 05, 1993

* elements of social behavior training, a group session for Youth Forum leaders led by Cezary Trutkowski and Tomasz Masny on October 12, 1993

* Youth Forum II on ***"Preventing drug addiction in schools"***, held on October 19, 1993 with 119 people in attendance. The following institutions were represented at this Forum: Drug Addiction Office, School Superintendents Office for Education (Kuratorium Oświaty), National Police Office for Drugs, the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, and the MONAR organization

Other activities pursued by the Center

The Center pursued the following activities in addition to those mentioned above:

* cooperation in preparing the book of lessons *"Life in Democratic Society"*

* cooperation in preparing a *"Civis Polonus"* program the purpose of which is to familiarize young people with the functioning of the supreme bodies of national government

* assistance for the Society for Civic Education officially registered on November 9, 1993

* promoting and distributing the publications of the CODN during workshops and meetings for teachers

* collecting publications for the Center's resource library

* establishing a database for teachers, lecturers and institutions concerned with civic education

Some of the activities planned by the Center in 1994

Workshops for teachers

I. Workshops in civic education:

1. HUMAN RIGHTS, a series of three meetings led by Elzbieta Suska, M.A., and Jaromir Czerkawski, M.A.

2. LEADERS IN SCHOOL SELF-GOVERNMENT, primarily adressed to wardens of school self-governing units and students active in self-government bodies (in cooperation with the "Education for Democracy" Foundation).

3. TEACHING ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT, led by Jacek Krolikowski, M.A.

4. ACTIVE TEACHING METHODS, a series of three meetings led by Malgorzata Rutkowska - Paszta, M.A.

5. PUBLIC OPINION: MAKING USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES, led by Cezary Trutkowski, M.A., and Tomasz Masny, M.A.

6. ME AND THE GROUP, led by Alicja Pacewicz, M.A.

7. ISSUES FACING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, led by Jacek Kowalski, M.A.

8. LAW IN ITS DAILY APPLICATIONS

9. USING COMPUTER GAMES IN TEACHING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SOCIETY AND HISTORY, in cooperation with the Warsaw University Departament of History.

II. Economic Education workshops led by Maria Ostrowska, M.A.:

1. INFLATION OR UNEMPLOYMENT?, February 25-27, 1994

2. THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS PLACE IN THE ECONOMY, March 25-27, 1994

3. POLAND IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM, April 22-24, 1994

4. POLISH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, May 27-29, 1994

5. BASIC CONCEPTS OF ECONOMY, October 6-8, 1994

6. THE ENTERPRISE, November 5-7, 1994

7. THE ROLE OF MONEY, December 1-3, 1994

Accumulating and drawing up supplementary materials for teachers

It is the Center's intention to accumulate supplementary materials to be used by teachers. The Center is also open to all initiatives on the part of active teacher groups. For example, the purchasing of lesson synopses (400,000 - 600,000 zlotys) and other aids for civic education teachers. The Center will also help locate material reviewers and people who can finalize purchased materials. The Center intends to disseminate these materials in the form of booklets.

"Current Issues" series for Warsaw teachers

This is proposed series of four one-day meetings for teachers in Warsaw during which exemples of lessons, simulations and so on would be presented together with short lectures on issues attracting public opinion at any moment, e.g. local government elections. Information on the exact dates and programs will be published at a later date.

Youth Forums

Five successive Youth Forums are planned for 1994. Activities will also be continued with youth leader group which the subject matter of the Forums will be determined. The dates and programs of successive meetings will soon be published. Persons wishing to cooperate with the Forum are requested to contact the Center.

Programmes implemented in cooperation with other institutions

The Center will participate in the following programs in 1994 (the name of the cooperating institutions are in parentheses):

1. ***"Civis Polonus"*** (Society for Civic Education)

2. ***"School - Local Government"*** (Local Democracy Development Foundation)

3. ***"Teaching Economics in School"*** (Foundation fot Teaching Economics)

4. Draft of a ***"Human Rights"*** workshop (Helsinki Foundation in Poland)

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